THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) As various Ministries are involved in this activity information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Utilisation of European Space Agency Satellite

3801. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to utilise European Space Agency (ERS) Satellite for development of data on ocean and coastal parameters:

(b) if so, whether the strategies pertaining to such programme have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the time by which such ERS satellite is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An agreement has been signed between the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, of the Department of Space (DOS) and the European Space Agency (ESA) for receiving, processing and distributing data from the Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) instrument on the European Remote Sensing Satellite (ERS-1) on an experimental basis for ocean, coastal and also land applications. The National Remote Sensing Agency has already geared up its facilities towards this. The Department of Space has taken up a programme on the ocean applications jointly with the Department of Ocean Development (DOD) for exploiting the data from ERS-1 along with that from the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites.

(c) The plans are to utilise ERS-1 data by the last quarter of 1991, as soon as they are available and establish their potential for application to the development of land, water and ocean resources.

[*Translation*]

Approval to Mahi Irrigation Project of Bihar

3802. SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved the Mahi Irrigation Project of Bihar: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation of Essential Consumer Items to Rajasthan at Cheaper Rates

3804. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of essential consumer items allocated at cheaper rates to Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise:

(b) the quota lifted by the State Government, year-wise; and

(c) whether these items were allocated in time; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Central Government incurs a substantial amount as subsidy in supplying foodgrains

(wheat and rice) to the State Govts. and UT Admns. at Central Issue Prices, for Public Distribution System (PDS). Under a Scheme for population living in areas covered under the Integrated Tribal Development Project foodgrains are distributed to the people living in these areas at further subsidised rates.

The quantity of PDS commodities allotted to and lifted by State Govt. of Rajasthan in 1989, 1990 and 1991 is as under:—

(*in thousand tonnes*)

	1989		1990		1991	
	Allocation	*Lifting*	*Allocation*	*Lifting*	*Allocation (Jan-Aug)*	*Lifting (Jan-June)*
Rice	39.20	7.40	38.40	13.30	26.60	8.00
Wheat	790.00	619.40	840.10	571.10	665.00	447.4
Levy Sugar . .	208.06	*	208.06	*	135.31	*
Imported Edible Oil .	2.70	0.42	10.00	3.92	1.74	1.22
Kerosene . . .	251.16	253.37	263.70	266.48	173.41	112.76@

*Lifting of levy sugar is nearly 100%.
@Upto May, 1991.

(c) Allocations of PDS items from the Central Pool are generally made well in time.

Price of Cement

3805. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the dates when the prices of cement were increased during the last three years, year-wise, and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government were aware of the frequent and some times twice a month increase in prices of cement by the industrialists;

(c) whether the Government have analysed from time to time the cost of production, the various types of taxes levied and the profit earned by the industrialists on each bag of cement; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The FOR price of naked cement in the levy category was increased by Rs. 47 per tonne during 1988-89 to compensate the industry for the increase in input costs. Price and distribution control of cement was removed with effect from 1-3-1989 and the market prices of cement are now determined, among other things, by the cost of production, transportation costs and local demand-supply position.

(c) and (d) The cost of production varies from region to region and from one cement unit to another. At present, there is no control on price and distribution of cement. No recent study has been conducted by the Government on the rates of return etc.. of the Cement Industry.

[*English*]

Reconstitution of Planning Commission

3806. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the Planning Commission is proposed to be reconstituted; and